

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICS AND THE MEDIA -- SOME CHANGES

REF: LISBON 0300

1. CONTRABAND CASE: EDMUNDO PEDRO, THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS)  
LEADER CHARGED WITH CONTRABAND ACTIVITIES IN ARMS AND  
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, RESIGNED JANUARY 19 FROM ALL PS OFFICES  
AND FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF STATE TELEVISION (RTP). NO FORMAL  
HEARING HAS AS YET BEEN HELD ON CHARGES AGAINST PEDRO, BUT  
THE ARMY HAS STEPPED FORWARD TO EXPLAIN THAT PEDRO WAS AMONG  
CERTAIN TRUSTED CIVILIANS WHO RECEIVED MILITARY WEAPONS FOR  
POSSIBLE USE ON BEHALF OF THE GOP DURING THE NOVEMBER 25,  
1975, LEFT-WING COPY ATTEMPT. MEANWHILE, THE MEDIA  
HAVE WIDELY IDENTIFIED PEDRO AS A KNOWN CONTRABAND  
OPERATOR--THE TONE OF WHICH REPORTS CAN BUT BE EMBARRASSING  
TO THE PS. PEDRO IS STILL IN CUSTODY.

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2. REPERCUSSIONS IN THE NORTH: SILVA TAVARES PRESENTED  
HIS RESIGNATION AS EDITOR OF THE OPORTO DAILY "COMERCIO DO  
PORTO" ON JAN 19. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS LEAVING  
FOR PERSONAL REASONS --HE WAS TIRED FROM WORKING DAY  
AND NIGHT AND WANTED TO SEE MORE OF HIS FAMILY. SILVA  
TAVARES SAID HE WOULD REMAIN WITH THE PAPER, PRESUMABLY

AS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR. SILVA TAVARES' NOV. 19 EDITORIAL STRONGLY QUESTIONED THE VIABILITY OF A PS/CDS GOVERNMENT. FYI: SILVA TAVARES EMERGED AS A FIRM ANTI-COMMUNIST IN 1975. SINCE THEN, HE HAS DIRECTED HIS PAPER TO BECOME WHAT SOME THOUGHT WAS FARTHER TO THE RIGHT THAN ANY OTHER STATE-INTERVENED NEWSPAPER. THE CDS MAY BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE THE NEXT EDITOR OF "COMERCIO", AS A PART OF ITS NEW GOVERNMENTAL ROLE.

3. SOCIALIST PAPER: THE NEWS DIRECTOR AND HIS WIFE (ALSO AN EDITORIAL STAFF MEMBER) OF PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" RESIGNED NOV 19, REPORTEDLY DUE TO INTERNAL DIFFERNCES IN THE NEWSPAPER.

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## Message Attributes

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